on the N. American Flora — a mere enumeration with references to the works where the species are published would be most useful even though unaccompanied by any characters — but a compilation such as Walpers copying diagnoses without attempt at modifying or improving would be still better — a critical Flora such as that you and Torrey began seems now hopeless during my life

Ever yours sincerely

George Bentham

25, WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

Oct. 22 1872

My dear Gray

I received this morning your Sequoia Address which interested me much as given in the Gardener's Chronicle and which I was therefore very glad now to have complete. I also received your letter enclosing Lemanpyx Oxytenia and your new genus of Cichoraceae (of which I forgot the name it being at Kew). The Lemanpyx is interesting as being an American representative of the typical Cnithemideae and indeed being so near to Cnithemis itself that if it had been European one would be tempted to put it into that genus. I must beg you however not to send me any more new genera of Compositae just now for the ill of the whole is on the creation and the insertion of a genus

occasions great confusion in numbering ~~and accurate unless deferred for Addenda~~ the Cichoraceous genera does not matter for Lygodesmia is one of the very last in the order but Lencampye will oblige me to change some ~~two or three~~ hundred numbers — and after this week during which I shall have the proof of all the Compositae General it will be ~~too late to do this~~ — I sent off to you this morning the eighth sheet. Ten are in type completing Rubiaceae Valerianeae and Dipsaceae ~~the first~~ as well as Caprifoliaceae by Hooker the Valerianeae Dipsaceae Calycereae and Compositae by myself

I should like in my next year's address to say something about the progress of physiological and anatomical botany which is so little attended to here in comparison to what it is on the Continent. Can you give me any hints about the most important papers recently published in Germany or elsewhere which I ought to read up? I find the task of a discourse to recur annually getting very heavy and the more so as after having made one or two which appeared to me to have been approved of I perceive that they have since fallen off and I feel that as I am growing older they must necessarily deteriorate besides inevitable repetition and yet the precedency of the Society is in many respects agreeable as well as flattering so that I hesitate about giving it up. We shall I hope get into our new rooms next summer.

Is nothing doing towards bringing together what has been published in so very long a list of separate Reports etc